

Whereas Hamas continues to forcefully reject the possibility of negotiations or peace with Israel;

Whereas, by contrast, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu has accepted a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

Whereas, on April 22, 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated, "We will not deal with nor in any way fund a Palestinian government that includes Hamas unless and until Hamas has renounced violence, recognized Israel and agreed to follow the previous obligations of the Palestinian Authority";

Whereas the United States, under two different Presidents, has vetoed 11 United Nations Security Council resolutions in the last 15 years related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and its outstanding issues;

Whereas United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Susan Rice stated on February 18, 2011, that it was "unwise" for the United Nations to attempt to resolve key issues between the Israelis and Palestinians;

Whereas Palestinian leaders are pursuing a coordinated strategy to seek recognition of a Palestinian state within the United Nations, in other international forums, and from foreign governments;

Whereas, on March 11, 1999, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 (106th Congress), and on March 16, 1999, the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution 24 (106th Congress), both of which resolved that "any attempt to establish Palestinian statehood outside the negotiating process will invoke the strongest congressional opposition";

Whereas current United States law precludes assistance to a Palestinian Authority that shares power with Hamas unless that Authority publicly accepts the right of Israel to exist and adheres to all prior agreements and understandings with the Governments of the United States and Israel;

Whereas the United States Government provides more than \$550,000,000 annually and more than \$3,500,000,000 cumulatively in direct bilateral assistance to the Palestinians, who are among the world's largest recipients of foreign aid per capita;

Whereas aid to the Palestinians is predicated on a good faith commitment from the Palestinians to the peace process;

Whereas abandonment by Palestinian leaders of the Quartet conditions and inclusion of Hamas in a government could jeopardize the positive steps the Palestinian Authority has taken in building institutions and improving security in the West Bank in recent years; and

Whereas efforts to form a unity government without accepting the Quartet conditions, to bypass negotiations and unilaterally declare a Palestinian state, or to appeal to the United Nations or other international forums or to foreign governments for recognition of a Palestinian state would violate the underlying principles of the Oslo Accords, the Road Map, and other relevant Middle East peace process efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its strong support for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in two states, a democratic, Jewish state of Israel and a viable, democratic Palestinian state, living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition;

(2) states its firm belief that any Palestinian unity government must publicly and formally forswear terrorism, accept Israel's right to exist, and reaffirm previous agreements made with the Government of Israel;

(3) reiterates its strong opposition to any attempt to establish or seek recognition of a

Palestinian state outside of an agreement negotiated between leaders in Israel and the Palestinians;

(4) urges Palestinian leaders—

(A) to ensure that any Palestinian government will seek peace with Israel;

(B) to cease all efforts at circumventing the negotiation process, including through a unilateral declaration of statehood or quests for recognition of a Palestinian state from other nations or the United Nations;

(C) to resume direct negotiations with the Government of Israel immediately and without preconditions; and

(D) to take appropriate measures to counter incitement to violence and fulfill all prior Palestinian commitments, including dismantling the terrorist infrastructure embodied in Hamas;

(5) supports the opposition of the President to a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and the veto by the United States on February 18, 2011, of the most recent United Nations Security Council resolution regarding a key issue of the Israeli-Palestinian process;

(6) calls upon the President to announce that the United States will veto any resolution on Palestinian statehood that comes before the United Nations Security Council which is not a result of agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestinians;

(7) calls upon the President to lead a diplomatic effort to oppose a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and to oppose recognition of a Palestinian state by other nations, within the United Nations, and in other international forums prior to achievement of a final agreement between the Government of Israel and the Palestinians;

(8) will consider restrictions on aid to the Palestinian Authority should it persist in efforts to circumvent direct negotiations by turning to the United Nations or other international bodies;

(9) supports the position taken by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on April 22, 2009, that the United States "will not deal with or in any way fund a Palestinian government that includes Hamas unless and until Hamas has renounced violence, recognized Israel and agreed to follow the previous obligations of the Palestinian Authority";

(10) urges the President to consider suspending assistance to the Palestinian Authority pending a review of the unity agreement between Fatah and Hamas; and

(11) reaffirms the requirement under United States law precluding assistance to a Palestinian Authority that shares power with Hamas unless that Authority and all its ministers publicly accept the right of Israel to exist and all prior agreements and understandings with the Governments of the United States and Israel.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public of an addition to a previously announced hearing before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

In addition to the other measures previously announced, the Subcommittee will also consider S. 268, a

bill to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to allison_seyferth@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Scott Miller or Allison Seyferth.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 17,
2011 AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, the majority leader be recognized to move to proceed to Calendar No. 42, S. 940, the Close Big Oil Tax Loopholes Act, and Calendar No. 43, S. 953, the Offshore Production Safety Act; that there be up to 4 hours of debate prior to a vote on the motion to proceed to S. 940; that the vote on the motion to proceed be subject to a 60-vote threshold; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate; further, that at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 43, S. 953; that there be up to 4 hours of debate prior to a vote on the motion to proceed to the bill; that the vote on the motion to proceed be subject to a 60-vote threshold; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate; and finally, in addition to what I just asked, that if a motion to proceed contained in this agreement does not achieve 60 votes, the motion is withdrawn.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the following postal naming bills, en bloc: Calendar No. 46, 47, 48; S. 349, S. 655, and H.R. 793.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the bills be read the third time and passed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate; and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.